



AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS TO YOUTH

Three-quarters of eighth graders say it is "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get beer. 15% say it is as easy to get hard alcohol. Johnston, LD, PM O'Malley, and JG Bachman. National Survey Results on Drug Use, Monitoring the Future Study, Vol.1--Secondary School Students, National Institute on Drug Abuse, HHS, 1999.

Ninety percent of high school seniors report that it would be "fairly easy" or "very easy" to get marijuana, although 49% report ever having used it. Ibid.

One study conducted in Washington, DC reported that 19- and 20-year old males were able to purchase a six-pack of beer in 97 out of 100 attempts. PRIDE Summary Report. 1994-95 National Survey.

Just 8% of 12-year-olds know a drug dealer at school; by the time they reach age 17, more than half (56%) do. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 1997. www.Casacolumbia.org/pubs/sept98/key.htm

51% of 15- to 17-year-olds have been to a party that featured pot in the last 6 months. 26% of 15-year-olds, 30% of 16-year-olds and 35% of 17-year-olds say a majority of the parties they have attended in the past six months had pot available. The numbers of parties where alcohol is available, by age, are 38%, 42% and 54%. Ibid.

More than a third (37%) of older teens (15- to 17-year-olds) have personally seen drugs sold on school grounds, as have 16% of 12- to 14-year-olds. Ibid.

45% of high school students say they could buy marijuana in an hour or less; only 14% say they couldn't buy it at all. 26% of teens say they could buy hard drugs such as acid, cocaine or heroin within a day. Ibid.

When they first begin drinking, youth often obtain alcohol from home, with or without their parents' permission. As they get older, they are more likely to obtain alcohol from friends and siblings over age 21 and at parties. Wagenaar, A.C. Minimum drinking age and alcohol availability to youth: issues and research needs. In: Hilton, M.E., and G. Bloss, eds. *Economics and the Prevention of Alcohol-Related Problems*, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) Research Monograph No. 25. National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pub. No. 933513. Bethesda MD: The Institute, 1993. p.175-200.

Alcohol is readily available to young people today because of its low cost. The real price of alcohol is lower today than it was in 1981. Grossman, M, F.J. Chaloupka, H. Saffer, and A. Laixuthai. Effects of alcohol price policy on youth: a summary of economic research. *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 4(2):347-364, 1994.